

MULTIMEDIA



UNIVERSITY

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION NO

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MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 3, 2018/2019

BIT 3104 – INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND POLICY
(All sections / Groups)

31 MAY 2019
9.00AM-11.00AM
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This Question paper consists of 3 pages with 5 Questions only.
2. Attempt **ALL** in Section A. Attempt any **TWO** questions in Section B. All questions carry equal marks and the distribution of the marks for each question is given.
3. Please write all your answers in the Answer Booklet provided.

Section A:**Case Study : Attempt all questions**

Everything from critically endangered crocodiles to rare tortoises, is being sold here. A new study by Traffic (the wildlife trade monitoring network) reveals a flourishing trade in reptiles on Facebook in the Philippines with rapidly growing membership in groups with such unsavoury offerings.

In just three months, researchers recorded 2,245 unique live reptile advertisements with a minimum of 5,082 individual animals posted in 90 Facebook groups. “In only selected groups and in just under a hundred days, we found thousands of individual reptiles (offered for sale). This magnitude of commerce in live wild animals online is just mind boggling,” said Serene Chng, Programme Officer for Traffic in South-East Asia.

“This small snapshot reinforces how social media has taken over as the new epicentre of wildlife trade.” The cumulative membership in the groups at the beginning of the survey in June 2016 stood at 359,328, but quickly increased by 11% by the end of August that year. Over half the species documented in the study are protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and all species are protected under the Philippine Wildlife Act. Based on current Philippine wildlife law and regulations, researchers found that at least 80% of documented online traders in this study could be deemed involved, knowingly or otherwise, in illegal trading activities.

Native species, including the endemic and critically endangered Philippine crocodile *Crocodylus mindorensis* and Philippine forest turtle *Siebenrockiella leytensis*, were offered for sale. Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) reported that it has never issued permits to collect reptiles for commercial use, making the trade in these animals illegal.

The study also found several endangered non-native reptile species offered for sale including Radiated tortoise *Astrochelys radiata*, Bengal monitor lizard *Varanus bengalensis*, Black Spotted turtle *Geochlemys hamiltonii* and Dumeril’s boa *Acrantophis dumerili*. According to both the CITES trade database and BMB records, there were no records of legal imports for these species.

The availability of internationally protected endangered species on Facebook groups in the Philippines shows the challenges of enforcing international agreements and national law. Facebook is the platform of choice for illegal traders in the Philippines because of its popularity and insufficient internal monitoring enforcement. The study highlighted how buyers and sellers used internet-based services to ensure privacy and connectivity.

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Most deals were closed via Facebook messenger, away from any prying eyes, making it difficult for effective monitoring of illicit online activity. The study recommends enhanced monitoring, enforcement and advocacy to mitigate the burgeoning illegal reptile trade in the country. It also recommends that Facebook continue working with traffic to develop training materials around endangered species content.

In 2017, based in part on findings from this study, the BMB in collaboration with national authorities including the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) conducted numerous arrests of suspected illegal traders in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pangasinan, and Cebu. In addition, packages with illegal wildlife destined for China, Sweden, and the USA were intercepted by Philippine Customs. – Traffic

(Source : The Star (2018) Facebook is used for illegal trade of endangered reptiles in the Philippines)

QUESTION 1

Illegal wild life trading has been on the rise. Explain **FIVE (5)** reasons why these illegal wild life trading is increasing.

(25 Marks)

QUESTION 2

Assuming you are working for the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, suggest **FIVE (5)** ways the government agencies can take to eradicate illegal wild life trading.

(25 Marks)

Section B : Attempt any TWO questions

QUESTION 3

The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), was signed in Santiago, Chile, in 2018 by the trade ministers of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam and Malaysia (The Star 2018). Explain with examples, **FIVE (5)** possible benefits that Malaysia can enjoy.

(25 Marks)

QUESTION 4

Money laundering is being facilitated by the collusion between importers, exporters and bank officials who are at times getting involved in these illegal transactions (The Daily Star 2018). Explain with examples, **FIVE (5)** impact to Malaysia's trade.

(25 Marks)

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QUESTION 5

Among the countries that have invested in the Malaysian manufacturing sector during the period are Japan, Singapore, China, South Korea, United States of America and Germany (The Sun Daily 2018). Suggest **FIVE (5)** reasons these investors chose Malaysia.

(25 Marks)

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